



# House of Representatives

## File No. 722

General Assembly

January Session, 2017

**(Reprint of File No. 446)**

Substitute House Bill No. 5116  
As Amended by House Amendment  
Schedule "A"

Approved by the Legislative Commissioner  
May 5, 2017

### **AN ACT CONCERNING PUBLIC ACCESS TO HIGHER EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT DATA.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General  
Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Subsection (c) of section 10a-6b of the general statutes is  
2 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*  
3 *October 1, 2017*):

4 (c) The council shall work with the Labor Department and utilize  
5 existing data networks to (1) produce periodic reports, capable of  
6 being sorted by student age, on the employment status, job retention  
7 and earnings of students enrolled in academic and noncredit  
8 vocational courses and programs, both prior to enrollment and after  
9 completion of such courses and programs, who leave the constituent  
10 units upon graduation or otherwise, and (2) develop an annual  
11 affordability index for public higher education that is based on state-  
12 wide median family income. Such reports shall be made accessible on  
13 an Internet web site in aggregate form with guidance from the  
14 Planning Commission for Higher Education.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
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Section 1	<i>October 1, 2017</i>	10a-6b(c)
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The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

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***OFA Fiscal Note******State Impact:*** None***Municipal Impact:*** None***Explanation***

The bill as amended results in no fiscal impact as state agencies update their Internet websites as a normal course of operations.

House "A" strikes the underlying bill and the associated fiscal impact.

***The Out Years******State Impact:*** None***Municipal Impact:*** None

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**OLR Bill Analysis****sHB 5116 (as amended by House "A")\******AN ACT CONCERNING A HIGHER EDUCATION DATA COLLECTION AND TRACKING SYSTEM.*****SUMMARY**

This bill requires the Higher Education Coordinating Council to use existing data networks when producing periodic reports with the Department of Labor (DOL) about Connecticut public higher education institutions. By law, these reports must address the employment status, job retention, and earnings of students enrolled in academic and noncredit vocational courses and programs, both prior to enrollment and after course and program completion, who leave UConn and the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities (CSCU) upon graduation or otherwise.

The bill also requires these reports to be made accessible on a website in aggregate form with guidance from the Planning Commission for Higher Education. (Presumably, the "aggregate form" requirement concerns personally identifiable student information contained in the reports.)

\*House Amendment "A" replaces the underlying bill (File 446), which required a public website, comprised of data collected by the state's constituent units for higher education (i.e., UConn and CSCU) and DOL, to be created to help students make informed higher education and career decisions.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2017

**BACKGROUND*****Higher Education Coordinating Council***

This council meets annually and consists of the two Board of Regents (BOR) for Higher Education vice-presidents (i.e., the Connecticut State University System vice-president and the regional community-technical college system vice-president), the Office of Policy and Management secretary, the education commissioner, the UConn president, the UConn chief academic officer, the UConn Board of Trustees chairperson, the BOR chairperson, and the CSCU president.

By law, the council must (1) identify, examine, and implement savings in administrative functions carried out by the higher education system, including methods to simplify and reduce duplication in each constituent unit's administrative functions, and (2) develop accountability measures for each constituent unit and each public higher education institution (CGS § 10a-6a).

### ***Planning Commission for Higher Education***

The commission develops and ensures the implementation of a strategic master plan for higher education. The plan must address degree attainment, the number of people entering the workforce, and the achievement gap. The plan must provide specific strategies for meeting its goals and consider the impact of education trends on higher education in Connecticut (CGS § 10a-11b).

### **COMMITTEE ACTION**

Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea    19        Nay    2        (03/21/2017)